

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/034,029	WOOD ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	K. Feggins	2861	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 3/8/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7,8,10-16,19-24 and 26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-15 is the inclusion of the method steps that include aligning a sheet material disposed upon a worksurface that includes differentially driving spaced portions of the sheet material providing a pair of translatable sheet material clamps each extending from a first end to second end and spanning a dimension of the sheet material for clamping and translating the sheet material relative to the worksheet, the first ends mechanically coupled and the second ends mechanically coupled such that the clamps are substantially fixedly spaced along the direction of translation, clamping the sheet material with at least one of the clamps, and differentially translating the first and second ends of the clamps. It is these steps found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 16 & 19 is the inclusion of the limitations of an apparatus for supporting a sheet material on a worksurface that includes a sheet material translation means having a pair of translatable clamps each movable between clamped and unclamped conditions relative to the sheet material supported on the worksurface and extending across the worksurface from a first end to second end and parallel to the work axis for translating the sheet material in the direction of the sheet material in the direction of the sheet material translation axis, the first ends being mechanically coupled to one another and the second ends being

mechanically coupled to one another such that the clamps are substantially fixedly spaced from one another in the direction of the sheet material translation axis and wherein the means for differentially driving spaced portions having first and second actuators, coupled to the first and second ends, respectively, of the clamp pair, for independently translating the first and second ends of the clamp pair in the direction of the sheet material translation axis. It is these steps found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 21-24 is the inclusion of the limitations of an apparatus for supporting a sheet material on a worksurface that includes means for securing the sheet material to the worksurface when printing on the sheet material and releasing the sheet material from the worksurface when translating the sheet material; an edge sensor for sensing an edge of the sheet material, the sensor mounted with the workhead for translation therewith in the direction of the work axis; a controller in communication with the workhead the sheet material translation means and the edge sensor for controlling the work operation on the sheet material responsive to data stored in a memory, and wherein the controller having programming, stored in a memory associated therewith, for determining the alignment of the sheet material, said programming having instructions for the following; translating the workhead in the direction of the work axis and past the edge of the sheet; receiving a first communication from the edge sensor responsive to the location of the edge of the sheet; receiving a first communication from the edge sensor responsive to the location

of the edge of the sheet material in the direction of the work axis, energizing the sheet material translation means for translating the sheet material a known distance in the direction of the sheet material translation axis; translating the workhead in the direction of the work axis and past the edge of the sheet; receiving a second communication from the edge sensor responsive to the location of the edge of the sheet material in the direction of the work axis; and determining the skew of the sheet material responsive to the first and second communications and the known translation distance. It is these limitations found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 26 is the inclusion of the method steps for aligning a sheet material disposed upon a worksurface that includes providing a sensor translatable along one of the axes by providing an optical sensor for transmitting a beam and receiving light from the reflection of the transmitted beam and providing a reflective material under the sheet material for enhancing the difference in reflected light as the sensor is translated; translating the sensor across an edge of the sheet material and sensing a first location of the edge; translating the sensor across the edge of the sheet material and sensing a second location of the edge of the sheet and determining the skew of the sheet material from the difference between the first and second locations of the edge and a known translation distance. It is these limitations found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or

suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

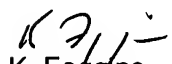
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Communication With The USPTO**

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to K. Feggins whose telephone number is 571-272-2254. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on 571-272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
K. Feggins  
April 24, 2004